

FIG. 1a
(Prior Art)

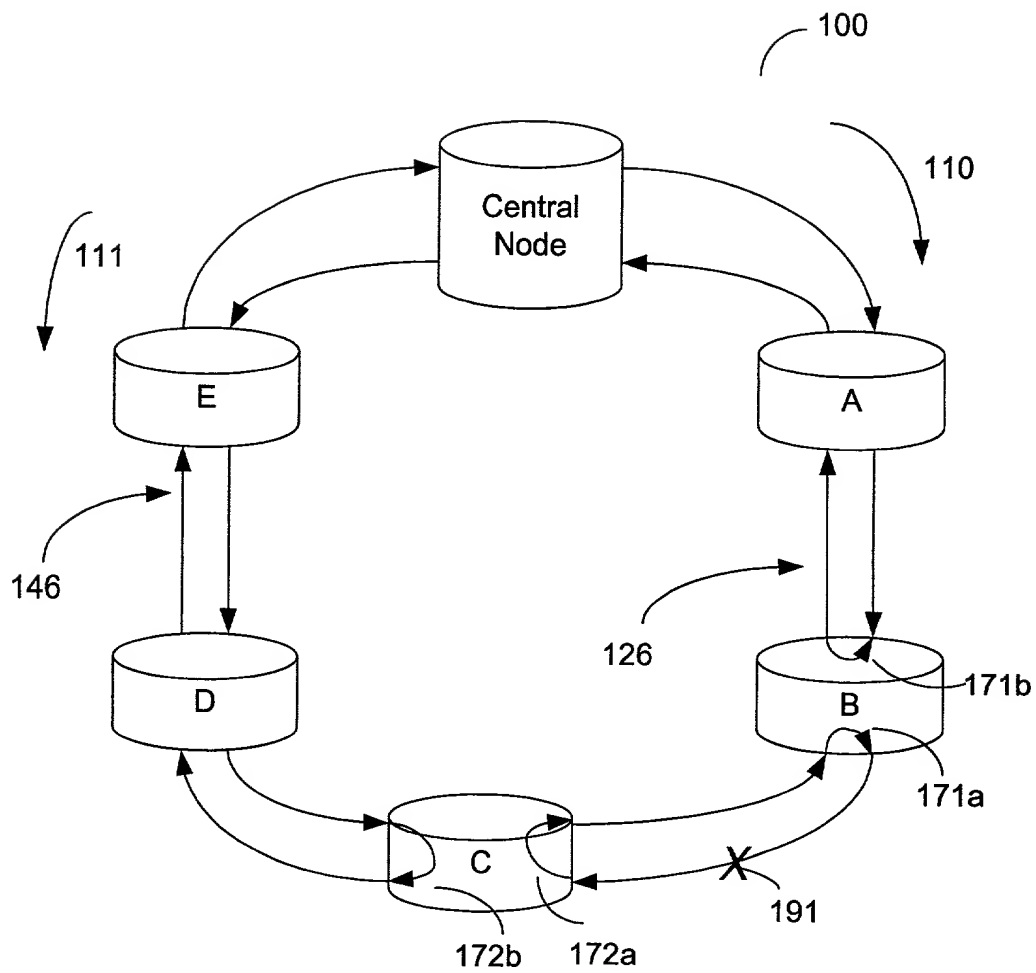


FIG. 1b
(Prior Art)

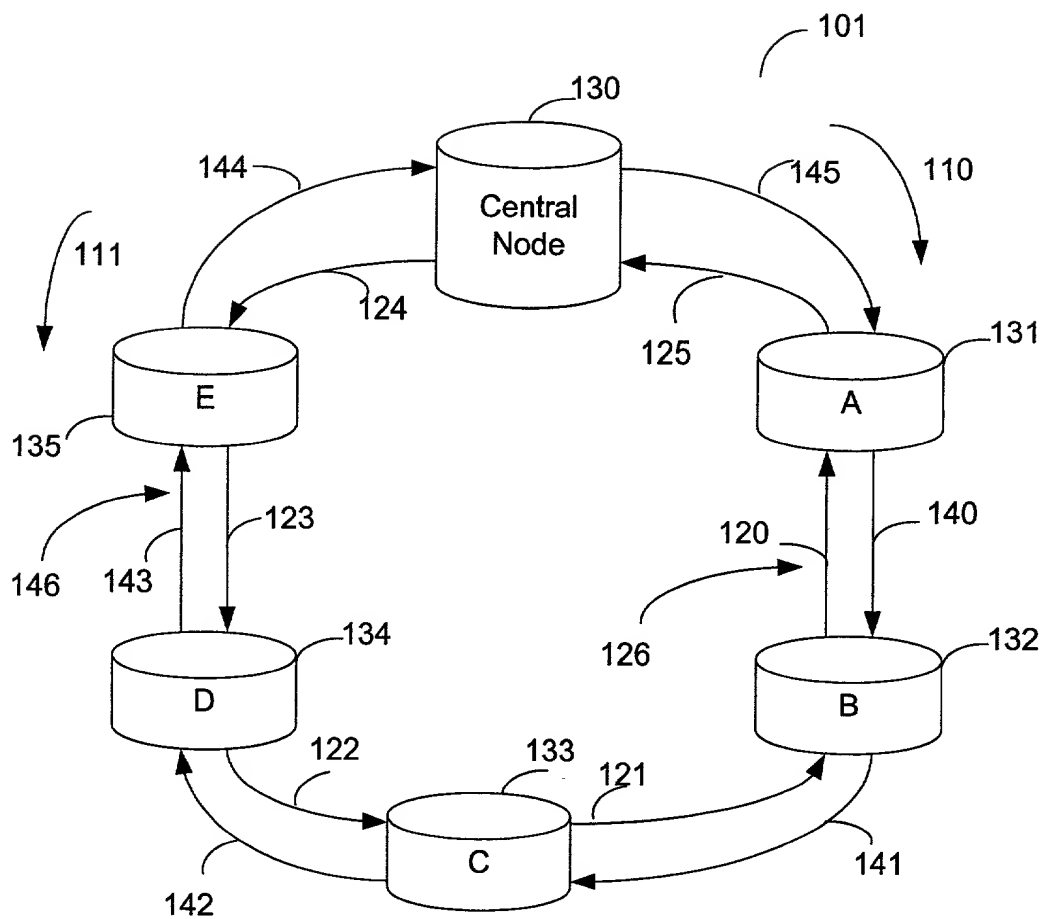


FIG. 2a

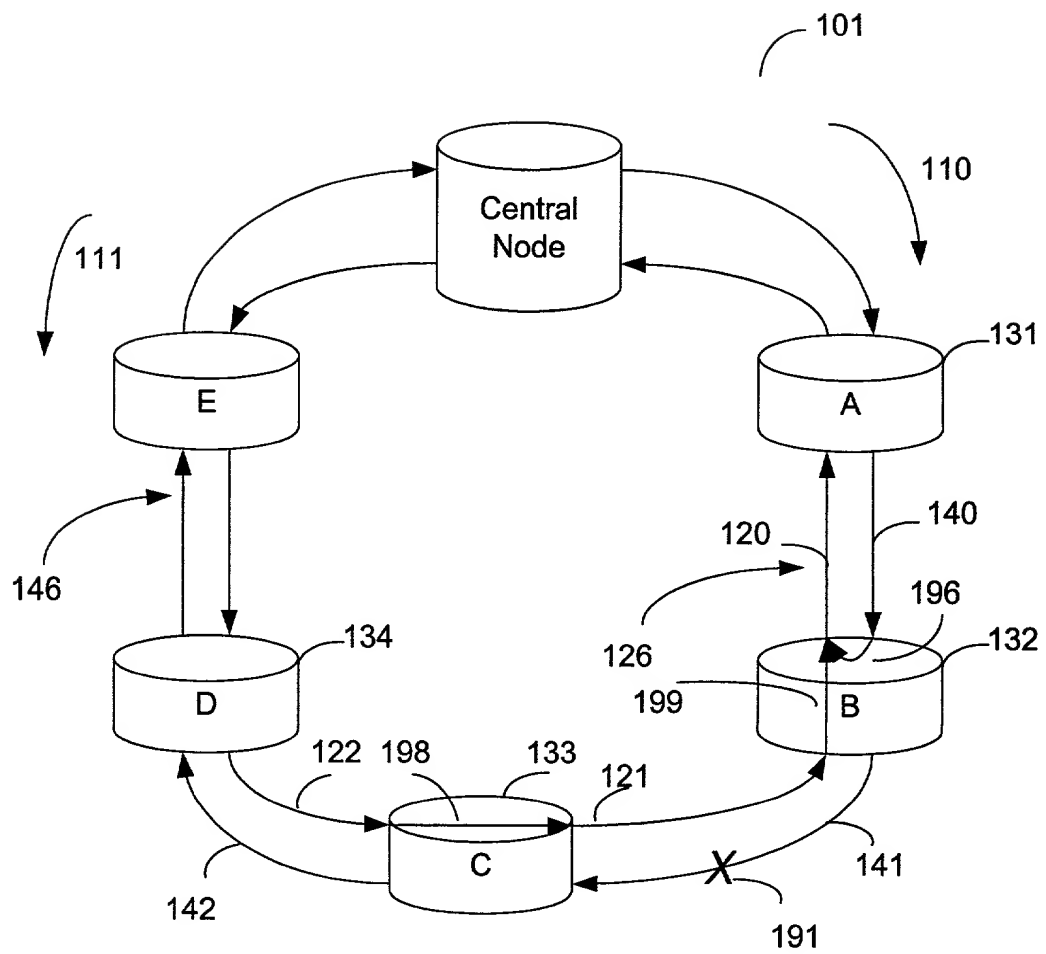


FIG. 2b

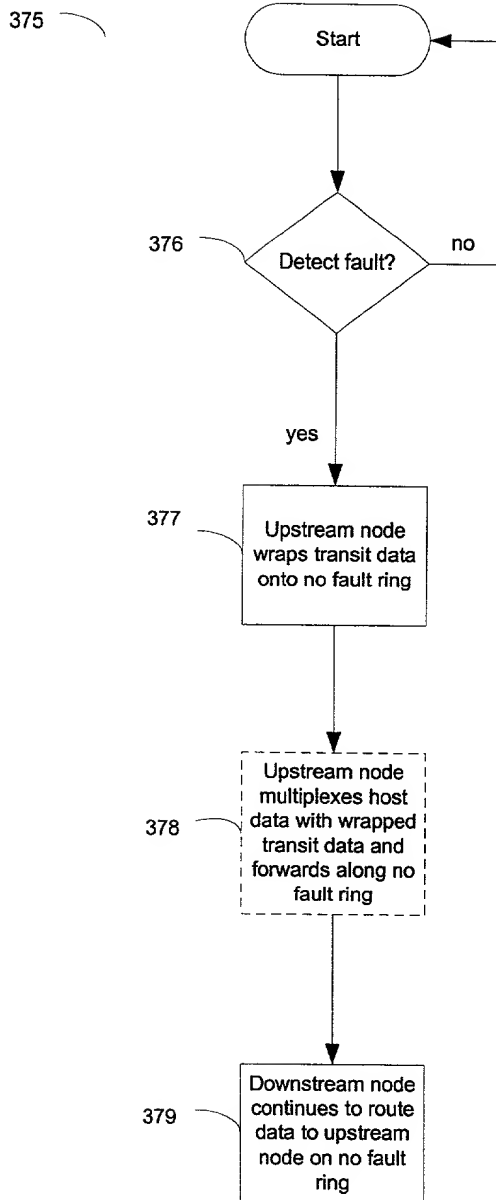


FIG. 2c

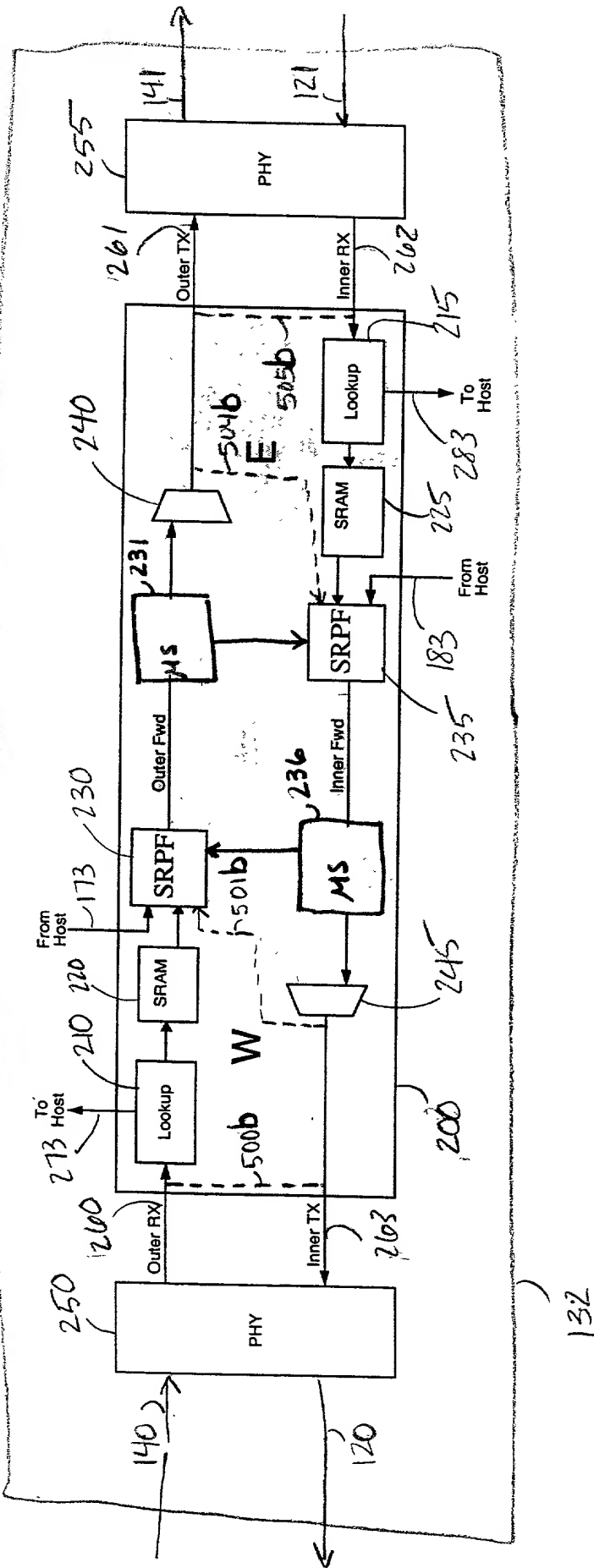


FIG. 3

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a fault handling process in a network ring topology. The process begins at a "Start" node and proceeds to a decision diamond 300: "Does a first fault exist?". If the answer is "No", the process moves to a box labeled "No fault mode; no wrapping". If the answer is "Yes", the process moves to a second decision diamond 301: "Does a second fault exist?". If the answer to 301 is "Yes", the process moves to a box labeled "Nodes adjacent to fault register faults". If the answer to 301 is "No", the process moves to a box labeled "Nodes adjacent to faults register fault". From this box, the process moves to a decision diamond 305: "Small or Large Ring?". If the answer is "Large Ring", the process moves to a box labeled "Upstream node wraps transit data" (309) and a box labeled "Downstream node wraps transit data" (310). If the answer is "Small Ring", the process moves to a box labeled "Upstream node wraps transit data" (303) and a box labeled "Downstream node continues to transmit transit data to upstream node along non-faulted ring" (321). The process then loops back to the "Start" node.

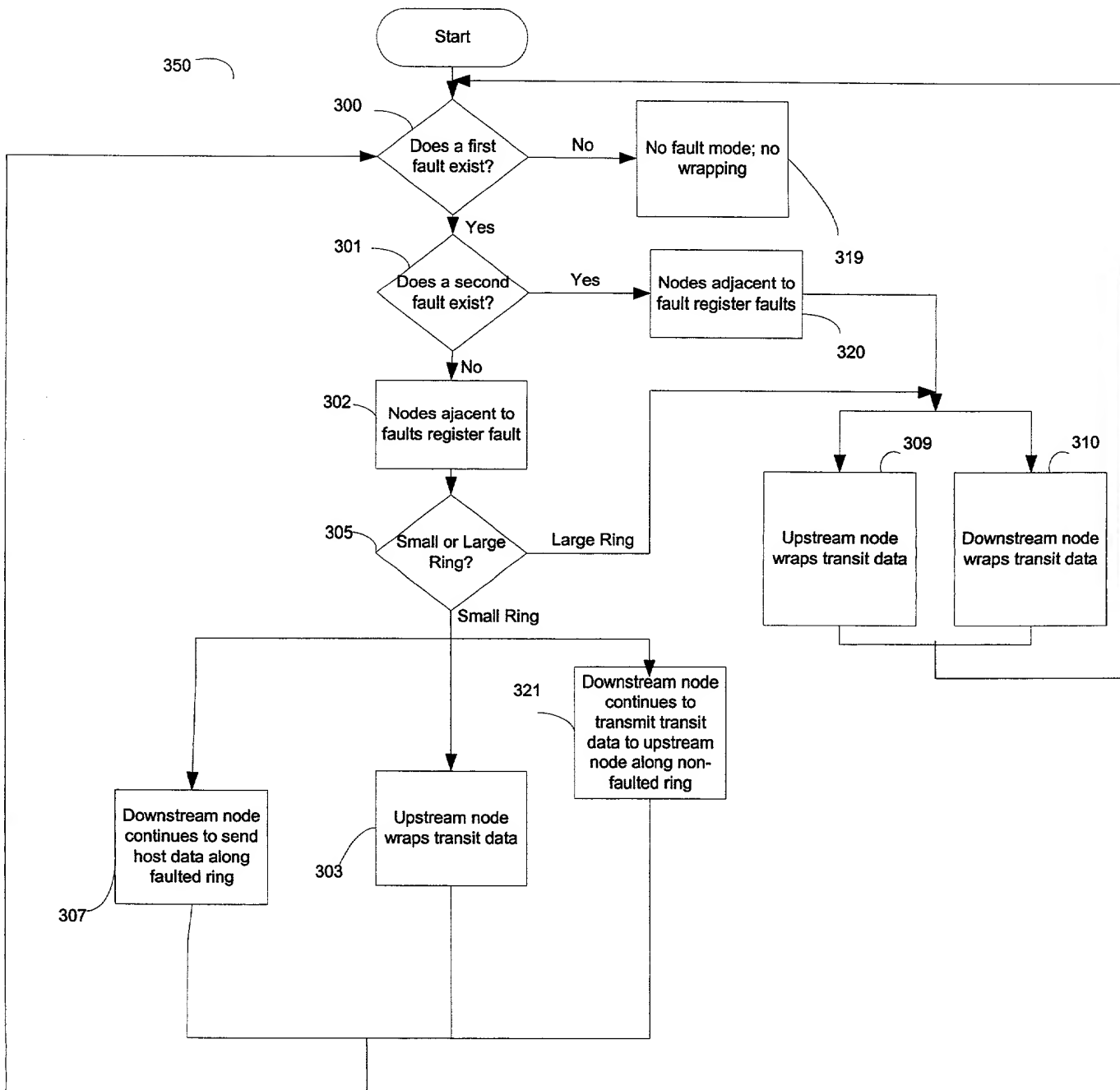


FIG. 4

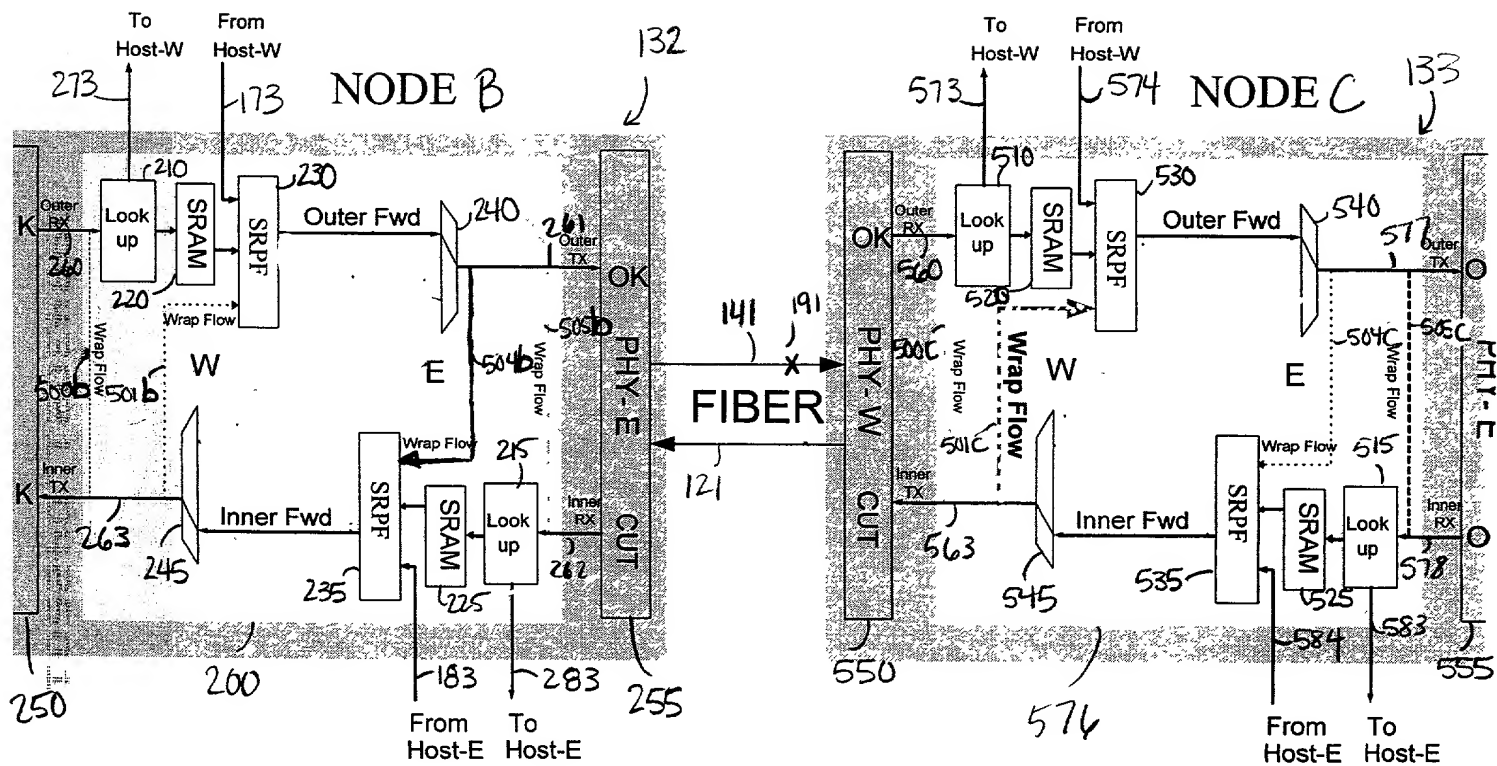


FIG. 5

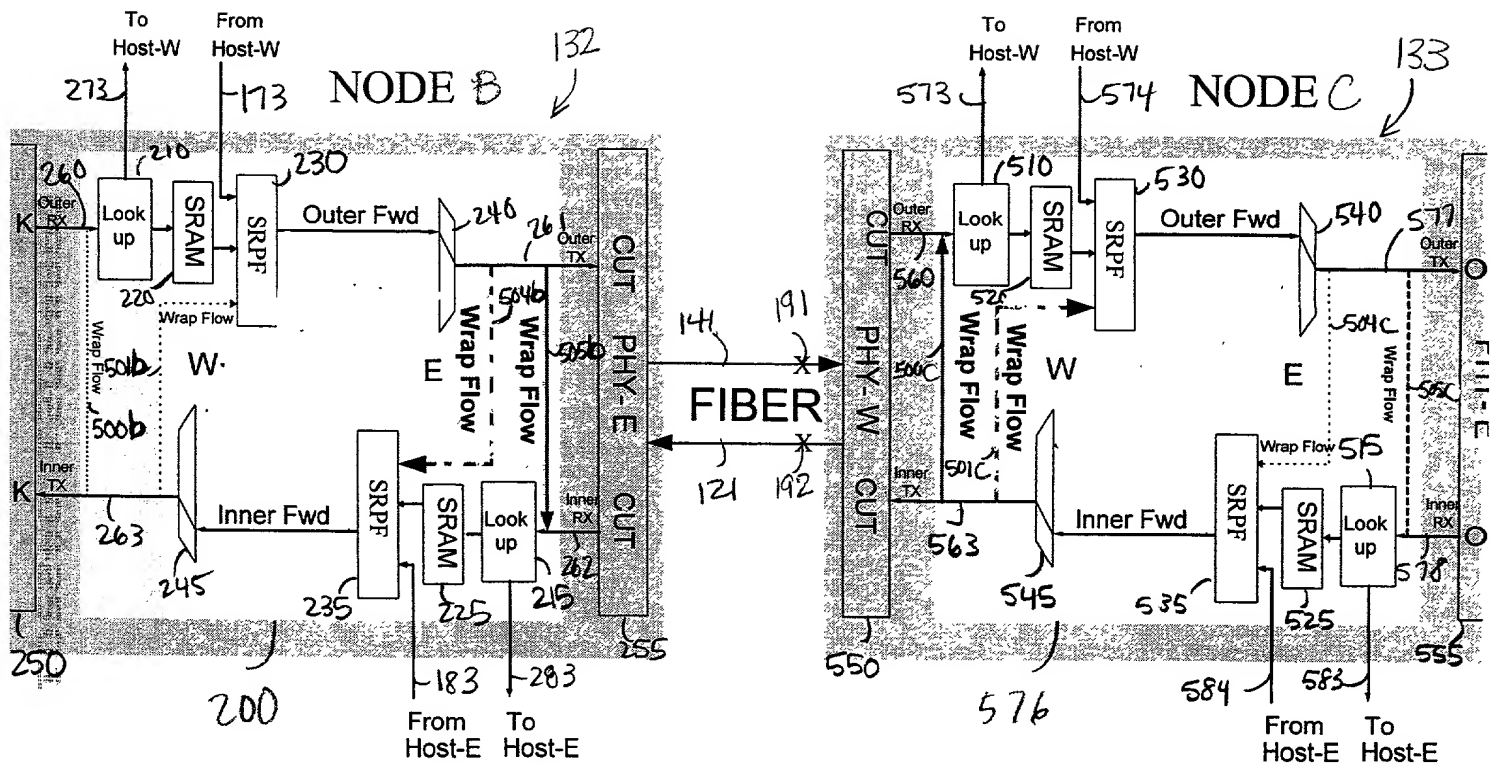


FIG. 6